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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652:N.A.

TAGS:OEXC, SCUL, UR, US

SUBJECT:CONTEMPORARY SOVIET FILM SEMINAR IN US

REF: LENINGRAD 0381

1. AS PER REFTEL REQUEST FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATE 11569
OF JAN. 16, 1976:

2. BEGIN TEXT. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS MET JANUARY 15 WITH
FRED STARR OF THE SMITHSONIAN'S KENNAN INSTITUTE TO DISCUSS
IDEAS FOR A POSSIBLE SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY SOVIET FILMS
WHICH WAS RAISED DURING RECENT EXCHANGE AGREEMENT REVIEW
TALKS. STARR REMAINS QUITE INTERESTED IN THE IDEA AND
BELIEVES THAT SOMETHING CAN BE DONE THAT WOULD SATISFY THE
INSTITUTE'S PROFESSIONAL/ACADEMIC INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT
AND ALSO MEET IN PART THE SOVIET INTEREST IN STIMULATING
POSSIBLE SALES OF THEIR FILMS IN US. OUR INITIAL THINKING
IS THAT A TWO-DAY SEMINAR WOULD BE HELD AT THE INSTITUTE AT
WHICH A NUMBER OF CONTEMPORARY SOVIET FILMS WOULD BE SHOWN.
SOVIETS WOULD BE ASKED TO GIVE TITLES OF APPROXIMATELY
TWENTY OF THEIR BEST FILMS WHICH THEY THINK ALSO HAVE
COMMERCIAL VALUE, FROM WHICH US SIDE (KENNAN INSTITUTE)
WOULD SELECT APPROXIMATELY TEN FOR SHOWING TO A SELECT
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AUDIENCE OF SPECIALISTS ON SOVIET FILMS, NATIONALLY KNOWN

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FILM CRITICS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE US FILM

PRODUCING AND DISTRIBUTING WORLD. SOVIETS WOULD BE ASKED TO PROVIDE FILMS TO SEMINAR FREE OF CHARGE. INSTITUTE WOULD INVITE SOVIET FILM WORLD REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTICIPATE AT ITS EXPENSE AND ALSO ONE OR TWO SOVEXPORTFILM REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE. SEMINAR WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR PROFESSIONAL AND COMMERCIAL SPECIALISTS TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL, SPECIFIC INTEREST.

3. WE DISCUSSED POTENTIAL TIMING FOR SUCH A SEMINAR, AND AGREED THAT LATE SPRING OR EARLY AUTUMN WOULD BE GOOD TIMES. STARR PLANS TO TRAVEL TO THE USSR SOMETIME IN MARCH, AND CONCEIVABLY COULD, EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EMBASSY, DISCUSS THE PROJECT WITH APPROPRIATE SOVIETS. HE THINKS THAT FUNDING WILL NOT BE TOO MUCH OF A PROBLEM, AND WE WOULD, OF COURSE, WANT TO GET THIS WORKED OUT BEFORE PROPOSING THE IDEA TO THE SOVIETS. WE WOULD HOPE TO GET IDEA WORKED OUT IN ENOUGH DETAIL TO PRESENT TO SOVIETS IN CONJUNCTION WITH OR IN SUPPORT OF, IF NECESSARY, EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL FOR BICENTENNIAL US FILM RETROSPECTIVE WEEK. THERE IS THOUGHT HERE THAT SUCH FILM WEEKS/SEMINARS COULD BECOME ANNUAL EVENT IN EXCHANGE RELATIONS IF WE CAN GET FIRST ONES OFF THE GROUND.

4. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING IDEA OF SEMINAR WITH MPAA, WHICH COULD BE PARTICIPANT ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT THINK IT IS ESSENTIAL. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS OR IDEAS THE EMBASSY MAY HAVE BEFORE JANUARY 23 MEETING WITH MPAA AND IN CONNECTION WITH OUR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH STARR.

5. FYI.A FESTIVAL OF SOVIET SILENT CLASSIC FILMS WILL BE RUNNING IN THE UNITED STATES FOR TWO MONTHS BEGINNING AT T'E AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE AT THE KENNEDY CENTER IN MARCH 1976. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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Film Number: D760091-0802
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760374/aaaacnoz.tel
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